



JUL 12 2007

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Veterinary
Services

Washington, DC
20250

Dr. Kim, Chang Seob
Animal Health Division
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)
1 Jungang-dong, Gwacheon-shi,
Gyeonggi-do
(427-719)

Dear Dr. Kim:

Thank you for your letter of May 8, 2007, requesting that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) recognize the Republic of Korea as being free of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), and for the well-organized information in support of that request.

We have identified several areas in which we need additional details, and have outlined them in our enclosure. Once we have received your response, we will evaluate it for completeness and technical merit. Once finished, we will request authorization to conduct a site visit to verify required information or reports. We can then conduct a risk assessment. If the risk assessment is favorable, we can initiate appropriate regulatory changes. Please be aware that the regulatory process is lengthy and can take several years to complete. Promptly submitting your information will aid this process.

You did not indicate what species or animal products you would like evaluated. If you wish to export only ruminants and ruminant products, a satisfactory FMD evaluation would allow that. However, APHIS does not currently recognize the Republic of Korea as being free of classical swine fever, swine vesicular disease, or other swine vesicular diseases that are exotic diseases in the United States. To export swine or swine products, the Republic of Korea would have to request separate evaluations for these diseases, similar to the one for FMD. We could then conduct these evaluations simultaneously.

Your primary contact from this office is Dr. Julia Punderson, U.S. Department of Agriculture, APHIS, Veterinary Services, National Center for Import and Export, Regionalization Evaluation Services, 4700 River Road, Unit 38, Riverdale, MD 20737. You can reach her by phone at (301) 734-4356, by fax at (301) 734-3222, or by e-mail at Julia.Punderson@aphis.usda.gov. Please identify a specific contact person from your staff with whom we can communicate throughout the evaluation and regulatory process.



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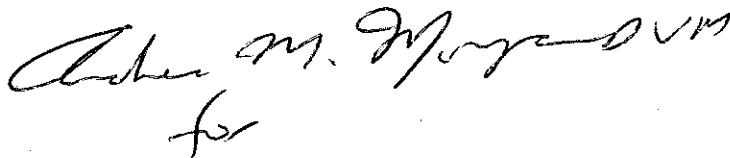
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1-800-877-8339

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We look forward to our continued cooperation, as well as to having an opportunity to visit the Republic of Korea to evaluate your FMD status.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John R. Clifford".

for
John R. Clifford
Deputy Administrator
Veterinary Services

Enclosure